

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4-9, 21 and 24-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,222,333 to Wenzel et al.

Claim 1 and 21 have been amended to overcome the above identified rejection.

For example Wenzel discloses a rubber bed 10. In addition Wenzel discloses type holders 18 which can be connected to rubber bed 10. Wenzel does not disclose the following features of amended claim 1:

a plurality of engaging parts on said stamp plate wherein there is at least one engaging part for a releasable interconnection thereof with said stamp plate carrier, and at least one engaging part for releasable interconnection with said letters or stamp characters respectively

In addition Wenzel does not disclose the following features of amended claim 21:

a plurality of engaging parts with a first set of parts for a releasable interconnection with said the stamp plate carrier of the hand stamp, and a second set of engaging parts for releasable interconnection with letters or stamp characters respectively, wherein said plurality of engaging parts are formed by a multiple groove/web structure wherein said stamp plate is made from elastic material.

The Examiner has referred to the "stamp plate" of claims 1 and 21 as being anticipated by the typeholder 18. Even if the type holder 18 of *Wenzel* could be referred to as a "stamp plate", the typeholder 18 of *Wenzel* does not include engaging parts for attaching to both 1) a stamp plate carrier or 2) letters or stamp characters.

Essentially, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 21 are patentable over *Wenzel et al* because the rubber bed 10 of *Wenzel* corresponds to a stamp plate (See FIG. 1 and 8 of *Wenzel*). This feature is further emphasized on page 2 right column line 72 to page 3 left column line 8. *Wenzel* merely mentions that the rubber may be fixed on a rubber stamp, however there are no details that are provided to achieve this type of connection.

In the present application as shown in FIGS. 4-6, letters/ and characters 9 which are similar to the type holder 18 are shown connected to a stamp plate 3. This type of disclosure demonstrates that the rubber bed 10 of *Wenzel et al* is clearly a stamp plate and not a stamp plate carrier.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is not anticipated by *Wenzel et al*. This result is especially true in that claims 1 and 21 have been amended to state that the stamp plate has engaging parts:

for releasable interconnection with said letters or stamp characters respectively

Ultimately *Wenzel* does not disclose the use of a stamp plate which has two sets of engaging elements for selectively securing to both letters and characters and to a stamp plate carrier. Therefore it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 4-9, 21 and 24-29 are patentable over *Wenzel*.

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-3, 11-12, 15-16, 18, 22-23 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over

Wenzel and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 3,442,309 to *Funhashi*. The Examiner has also rejected claims 14 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wenzel et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,809,886 to *Faber*. The Examiner has further rejected claims 17 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wenzel et al.* in view of *Funahashi* as applied to claims 2-3, 12, 15-16, 22-23 and 33 above, and further in view of *Faber*. The Examiner has rejected claims 19 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wenzel et al.* in view of *Funahashi*, as applied to claims 2-3, 11-12, 15-16, 18, 22-23 and 33 above, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,360,658 to *Benson*.

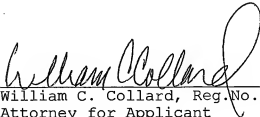
As presented above, Wenzel does not disclose a stamp plate having engaging parts for attaching to both 1) a stamp plate carrier; and/or 2) letters or stamp characters. In addition, none of the other references disclose engaging parts on a stamp plate for attaching to both 1) a stamp plate carrier and 2) letters or stamp characters respectively. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the remaining claims 1-12, 14-30, and 32-36 are patentable over the above identified references taken either singly or in combination.

In conclusion, independent claims 1 and 21 have been amended, while claims 13 and 32 have been canceled. Dependent claims 2-10, 14-15 25, 26, and 32-34 have also been amended. In addition, new claim 35 has been added which depends from amended claim 1, while new claim 36 has been added which depends from claim 21. Support for these claims can be found in FIGS. 4, 5 and 6 and in the specification on pages 12 and 13. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Collard & Roe, P.C.'s deposit account 03-2468 for the additional small entity fees for two additional claims.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the remaining claims are allowable. Therefore, early allowance of the remaining claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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